Example of a Score of 6

Look there, up in the sky! What is it? No, not Superman. He’s part of the institution now, the big business. Clark Kent has been commercialized, shrinkwrapped, and sent out to every child in these United States, he has become a symbol of the great and bright power of government. The mayor likes him. The police help him. He has a hall pass for heroics. But it’s not Superman framed in that grey, stormy sky. Superman is at home, sipping cognac with Lois Lane. The mayor tells him what to do, who to save. Superman answers to the man.

Who is the hero, then? Who will be the one to save the prostitutes as well as the grannies, crackheads and firemen alike? I’ll tell you – it’s not anyone who is playing by the rules, taking their cues from Big Brother. The true hero is not wearing a onesie, not climbing the steps to city hall for another aware, but is skulking in the shadows, watching over the people of the city.

It’s not what the people want, but what they need. An impartial vigilante, who helps not only the middle class white girls, and the grade school children, but also those on the periphery. The forgotten. Whores. Single mothers. Teenage boys. Immigrants. Grown-up orphans. Wageworkers. Pimps. Suicidals.

But Batman isn’t real, as much as Superman isn’t real. No glorious black cape is going to whisk everyone away to safety. And this is where you come in.

Yes, that was you up there, framed by the clouds. You with your scuffed sneakers and dirty fingernails, sitting at the counter where the waitress ignores you because last time you forgot to tip. Your coffee is cold. Nothing about you is glamorous. But you are the modern hero.

You are everywhere in the city; in the library, outside the apartment, by the entrance to the alley. In you lies the potential to save a life. Keep looking around. The girl with the sad eyes – give her a smile. Help the old man up from the bench. Listen as your friend talks – I mean, really listen.

In everyone of us is a chip of heroics, something burning hot that has the ability to improve someone’s existence. You don’t need a mask, a cloak, or the key to the city. Just keep watching. Keep listening.

Constant vigilance.

And someday, you can be the hero.